Providence Community Action Survey Report

PROVIDENCE
neighborhood association

Compiled by graduate students in Dr. Charles Connerly's Neighborhood
Planning Course: Marion Cook, Karen Hutzel, Faye Jones,
Tom Moore, and Jana Zmud.

CITY OF TALLAHASSEE

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF
URBAN & REGIONAL
PLANNING

Community
Neighborhood
Renaissance Program

Providence Community Action Survey Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPENDIX A-Survey Questionnaire

Providence Community Action Survey Report

I. INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 2002, Providence Neighborhood was chosen to become the City of Tallahassee's next Renaissance Neighborhood. Providence is located on the south side of Tallahassee and is bordered by the railroad to the north, Hutchinson Street to the south, Iamonia Street to the west, and Lake Bradford Road to the east (see Appendix A for a map). According to the 2000 Census, 87% of the total population in Providence is African American and over half of the residents are 24 years of age or younger. Approximately one third of the Providence residents are college students (Census Bureau, 1990).

The most recent Leon County Land Use Database indicated that there are 890 dwelling units in Providence, 667 of which are multi-family homes. This information is complementary to the fact that only 7% of Providence residents own their homes. Practically all of the housing in Providence is *at least* 25 years old, as most of the single-family homes were built in the 1940s and most of the apartments were built in the 1970s.

In addition, single parent families compose 66% of the residents that have families with children (Census Bureau, 2000). Almost one third (31%) of the families in Providence are living below poverty and resident income levels are less than one half of Tallahassee's median income (Census Bureau, 1990). According to the 2000 Census, Providence residents are far more likely to suffer a violent crime (burglary, assault or robbery) than the average Tallahassee resident.

The Urban and Regional Planning Department of Florida State University (FSU) set out in the fall of 2002 to assist the City of Tallahassee, Providence Neighborhood Association, and the Renaissance Neighborhood Partnership to create and conduct a door-to-door survey of residents (see Appendix B for a sample survey questionnaire). The survey was meant to complement and guide residents and stakeholders in creating an action plan for the Providence Neighborhood to stimulate revitalization.

Providence Community Action Survey Report

II. METHODOLOGY

The Renaissance Neighborhood Partnership arranged for the FSU Department of Urban and Regional Planning to create and implement a time-limited, random sample survey of Providence residents, the purpose of which was to ascertain residents' perceptions, satisfaction and future goals for their neighborhood. The survey was conducted over the course of three weekends with the help of volunteers from FSU and the Providence neighborhood. At least one attempt was made to contact 132 residents who were selected randomly by address. In the allotted time frame, 68 surveys were completed, for a response rate of 51.5% (the objective was to obtain approximately 125 completed surveys). Statistical theory suggests that at least 30 cases are needed in order to approximate a normal distribution and to provide an accurate picture using sample data. The surveys were collected and the responses were entered into an Access database. The data was then exported to both SPSS and Excel to produce various charts, graphs, and frequency distributions.

The survey consisted of 47 questions, divided into six sections:

- **General Perceptions.** Residents were asked questions about how they identifies with their neighborhood. This section consisted of both open-ended questions, in which the survey respondent was free to say anything he/she wished, as well as questions in which the survey respondent was required to choose one answer between three or four answers that were provided.

- **Housing.** Residents were asked about their present housing situation, as well as their housing plans were for the future. This section consisted of both open-ended questions, in which the survey respondent was free to say anything he/she wished; and questions in which the survey respondent was required to choose one answer between three answers that were provided.

- **Community Concern.** Residents were asked to describe the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with statements regarding community concerns. They were also given the option of stating 'I don't know' to any statement that they felt they were unable to adequately answer. Services. Residents were asked about the types of services they

Providence Community Action Survey Report

would like to see in their neighborhood. The survey respondents were asked to look at a list of eight services and to rank their top three choices.

- **Land-Use Planning and Community Participation.** Residents were asked to identify the types of land uses/activities that they would like to see in their neighborhood. The survey respondents were given the choice of whether they would like to see more, less, or the same amount of particular land uses/activities.

- **Demographics.** Residents were asked to answer questions about themselves, with the intent to ensure that the random sample demographics were complementary to the data obtained by the Census Bureau in 2000.

III. SURVEY RESULTS

General Perceptions

Neighborhood Name. Very few of the survey respondents refer to their neighborhood as 'Providence' (only 6%), which happens to be the name of the area's neighborhood association. Instead, residents tend refer to the neighborhood by the street names within the neighborhood, such as 'Lake Bradford Road', 'Lake Avenue', etc. One third (33.8%) of the survey respondents either thought the area did not have a name, or they did not know what it was (see Table 1 and Figure 1).

Neighborhood Name

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Providence	4	5.9	5.9	5.9
	Lake Bradford	8	11.8	11.8	17.6
	Lake Avenue	5	7.4	7.4	25.0
	"Hood/Ghetto/Bad Neighborhood"	6	8.8	8.8	33.8
	Other Street Names	10	14.7	14.7	48.5
	Other	12	17.6	17.6	66.2
	No Name/None/No Comment	11	16.2	16.2	82.4
	Don't Know	12	17.6	17.6	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 1. Neighborhood Name

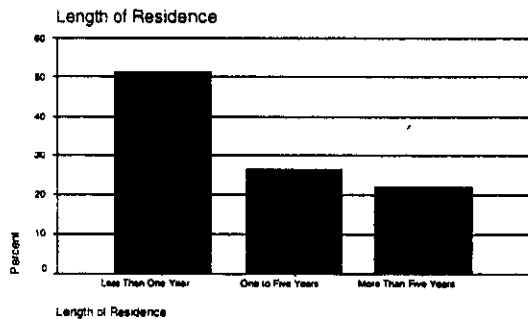# Providence Community Action Survey Report
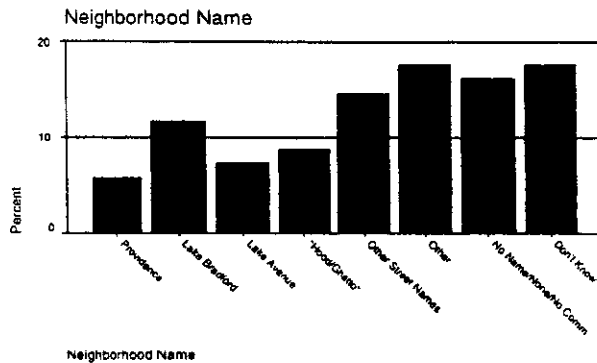
Neighborhood Name

Figure 1. Neighborhood Name

Length of Residence. When asked how long he/she had lived in the neighborhood, over half of the survey respondents (51.5%) answered that they had lived in Providence for less than one year (see Table 2 and Figure 2).

Length of Residence

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less Than One Year	35	51.5	51.5	51.5
	One to Five Years	18	26.5	26.5	77.9
	More Than Five Years	15	22.1	22.1	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 2. Length of Residence

Length of Residence

Figure 2. Length of Residence

Providence Community Action Survey Report

Neighborhood Satisfaction. The purpose of the third general question was to identify the level of satisfaction survey respondents have with their quality of life in the neighborhood. The majority (63.2%) of survey respondents answered that they were either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied'. However, it is important to note that a significant minority (35%) of the survey respondents answered either 'unsatisfied' or 'very unsatisfied' (see Table 3 and Figure 3). Table 4 shows a cross tabulation of neighborhood satisfaction and length of stay or tenure. The survey respondents that have lived in Providence for less than one year, 65.7% indicated that they are satisfied with their neighborhood, while only 20% said they were unsatisfied. These responses are the direct opposite of longer term residents. Of residents surveyed that have lived in Providence more than five years, 33.3% said that they were unsatisfied and 33.3% said that they were satisfied with their neighborhood.

Neighborhood Satisfaction

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No Answer	1	1.5	1.5	1.5
	Very Satisfied	6	8.8	8.8	10.3
	Satisfied	37	54.4	54.4	64.7
	Unsatisfied	17	25.0	25.0	89.7
	Very Unsatisfied	7	10.3	10.3	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 3. Neighborhood Satisfaction

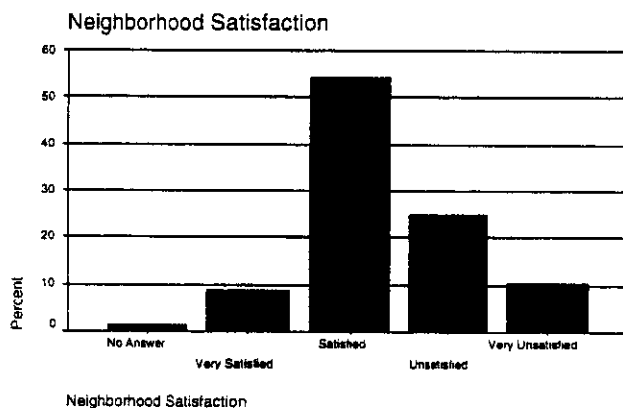**Figure 3. Neighborhood Satisfaction**

Providence Community Action Survey Report

Neighborhood Satisfaction * Tenure Crosstabulation

			Tenure				
			0	Less than one year	One to five years	More than five years	Total
Neighborhood Satisfaction	0	Count	1	2			3
		% within Neighborhood Satisfaction	33.3%	66.7%			100.0%
		% within Tenure	100.0%	5.7%			4.3%
		% of Total	1.4%	2.9%			4.3%
	Very satisfied	Count		1	3	2	6
		% within Neighborhood Satisfaction		16.7%	50.0%	33.3%	100.0%
		% within Tenure		2.9%	16.7%	13.3%	8.7%
		% of Total		1.4%	4.3%	2.9%	8.7%
	Satisfied	Count		23	8	5	36
		% within Neighborhood Satisfaction		63.9%	22.2%	13.9%	100.0%
		% within Tenure		65.7%	44.4%	33.3%	52.2%
		% of Total		33.3%	11.6%	7.2%	52.2%
	Unsatisfied	Count		7	5	5	17
		% within Neighborhood Satisfaction		41.2%	29.4%	29.4%	100.0%
		% within Tenure		20.0%	27.8%	33.3%	24.6%
		% of Total		10.1%	7.2%	7.2%	24.6%
	Very unsatisfied	Count		2	2	3	7
		% within Neighborhood Satisfaction		28.6%	28.6%	42.9%	100.0%
		% within Tenure		5.7%	11.1%	20.0%	10.1%
		% of Total		2.9%	2.9%	4.3%	10.1%
Total		Count	1	35	18	15	69
		% within Neighborhood Satisfaction	1.4%	50.7%	26.1%	21.7%	100.0%
		% within Tenure	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	1.4%	50.7%	26.1%	21.7%	100.0%

Table 4. Cross-Tabulation of Neighborhood Satisfaction and Tenure

Likes and Dislikes. The last two questions within the first section of the survey were open-ended and gave the survey respondent a chance to name the top three things that he/she liked best about living in the neighborhood, as well as the top three things he/she disliked about living in the neighborhood. As the questions were open-ended, eliciting various similar and different responses, it was necessary to create general categories within which to group the responses (see Table 5 for coding categories).

Providence Community Action Survey Report

"Likes"

Location	Refers to proximity to school, work, and businesses.
People/Community	Refers to friendly neighbors and friends, diversity and caring.
Affordable Rent	Refers to low rent.
Safety/Police	Refers to adequate police patrol, frequency of patrol, and feeling safe.
Quiet/Privacy	Refers to quiet neighborhood and individual privacy.
Crime/Drugs	Refers to low perception of alcohol and drugs in neighborhood.
Improvement	Refers to positive neighborhood change.
Other	Other answers given.
Don't know/None/Blank	Respondent did not provide another answer (no answer or no comment).

"Dislikes"

Traffic	Refers to traffic congestion in or around neighborhood.
Disruptive Activity/Loitering	Refers to loud parties, cursing, trespassing and noise.
Inadequate City Services	Refers to damaged roads, drainage, bus service and animal control.
No Recreation Center	Refers to lack of area for play, activities, parks, and activities for youth.
Noise	Refers to noisy people, loud music in residences and in cars.
Trash	Refers to trash on roads, public owned property, and poor appearance
Crime/Drugs	Refers to high perception of alcohol and drugs in neighborhood.
Unkempt Yards/Houses	Refers to poorly maintained private residences, vacant lots, and buildings.
Other	Other answers given.
Don't know/None/Blank	Respondent did not provide another answer (no answer or no comment).

Table 5. Coding for Resident Likes/Dislikes

Survey respondents identified 'location' as the first thing that they liked about living in the neighborhood. In this context, the term 'location' refers to the fact that the neighborhood is located near schools, work, businesses, and the bus stop. One third of the survey respondents were unable to name more than one thing that they liked about living in their neighborhood. However, the survey respondents that could name an additional two things most commonly mentioned 'quiet and privacy' and 'people and community' as what they liked best about their neighborhood (see Table 6 and Figure 4).

1st Like Listed

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Location	22	32.4	32.4	32.4
	People/Community	12	17.6	17.6	50.0
	Affordable Rent	8	11.8	11.8	61.8
	Safety/Police	1	1.5	1.5	63.2
	Quiet/Privacy	14	20.6	20.6	83.8
	Clean	2	2.9	2.9	86.8
	Other	1	1.5	1.5	88.2
	Don't know	8	11.8	11.8	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 6. Residents' Top Reason Why They Like Providence

Providence Community Action Survey Report
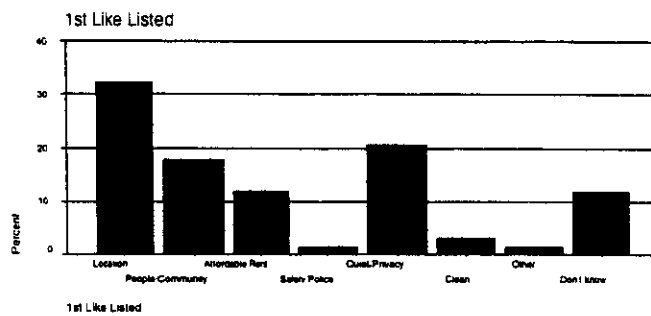
1st Like Listed

Figure 4. Residents' Top Reason Why They Like Providence

In response to three things that survey respondents disliked about the neighborhood, there was a tie between 'disruptive activity/loitering' and 'crime/drugs' (see Table 7 and Figure 5). Twenty percent of the survey respondents stated that there was nothing that they disliked about the neighborhood, and nearly 60% of the residents were unable to name three things that they disliked about their neighborhood. However, for those survey respondents that could name their second and third dislikes, 'inadequate city services' was the majority response. In this context, 'inadequate city services' refers to poor utility services, poor code enforcement, poor road conditions, poor drainage, or poor animal control.

1st Dislike Listed

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Traffic	6	8.8	8.8	8.8
	Disruptive Activity/Loitering	10	14.7	14.7	23.5
	Inadequate City Services	3	4.4	4.4	27.9
	No Recreation Center/Play Area	2	2.9	2.9	30.9
	Noise	6	8.8	8.8	39.7
	Trash	2	2.9	2.9	42.6
	Crime/Drugs	10	14.7	14.7	57.4
	Unkept Yards/Houses	4	5.9	5.9	63.2
	No sidewalks	3	4.4	4.4	67.6
	Other	8	11.8	11.8	79.4
	None	14	20.6	20.6	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 7. Residents' Top Reason Why They Dislike Providence

Providence Community Action Survey Report

1st Dislike Listed
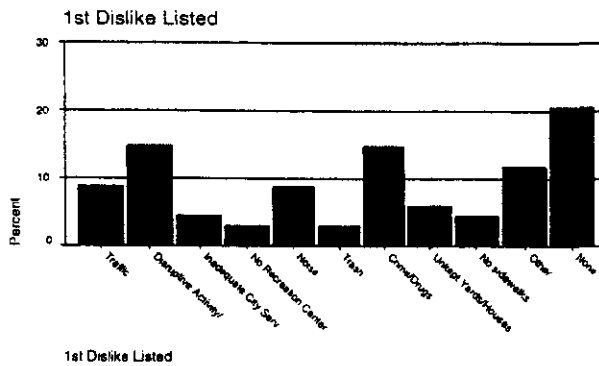

1st Dislike Listed

Chart 5. Residents' Top Reason Why They Dislike Providence

Housing Section

Housing Satisfaction. Over 80% of the residents responded that they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with their housing. Residents who were unsatisfied with their housing equaled less than 17% of the total respondents (see Table 8 and Figure 6).

Housing Satisfaction

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Satisfied	9	13.2	13.2	13.2
	Satisfied	48	70.6	70.6	83.8
	Unsatisfied	9	13.2	13.2	97.1
	Very Unsatisfied	2	2.9	2.9	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 8. Housing Satisfaction

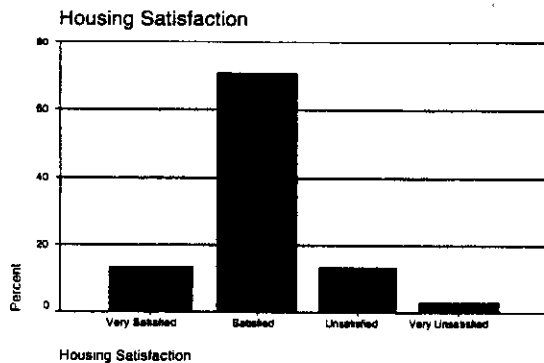Housing Satisfaction

Housing Satisfaction

Figure 6. Housing Satisfaction

Owning versus Renting. Renters are a majority of the survey respondents, with just over 10% of the residents reporting that they own their own home. This is slightly higher than reported in the

Providence Community Action Survey Report

2000 Census, with only 7% owning their own home (see Table 9 and Figure 7 & 39). As illustrated in Table 10, of the residents surveyed that have lived in Providence less than one year, 91.4% of them rent their homes while 2.9% own their homes. The residents that have lived in Providence more than five years, 40% own their homes and 60% rent.

Home Ownership

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Own My Home	7	10.3	10.3	10.3
	Rent My Home	59	86.8	86.8	97.1
	Other	2	2.9	2.9	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table9. Home Ownership
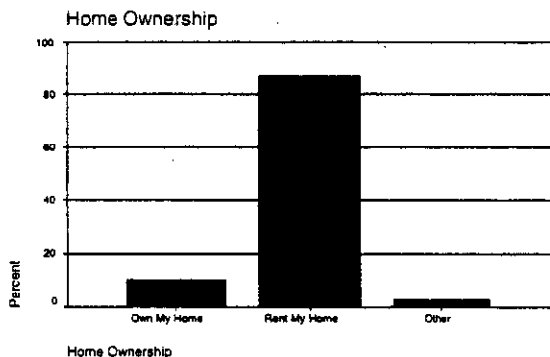
Figure7. Home Ownership

Providence Community Action Survey Report

Home Ownership * Tenure Crosstabulation

			Tenure				
			0	Less than one year	One to five years	More than five years	Total
Home Ownership	0	Count	1				1
		% within Home Ownership	100.0%				100.0%
		% within Tenure	100.0%				1.4%
		% of Total	1.4%				1.4%
	Own my home	Count		1		6	7
		% within Home Ownership		14.3%		85.7%	100.0%
		% within Tenure		2.9%		40.0%	10.1%
		% of Total		1.4%		8.7%	10.1%
	Rent my home	Count		32	18	9	59
		% within Home Ownership		54.2%	30.5%	15.3%	100.0%
		% within Tenure		91.4%	100.0%	60.0%	85.5%
		% of Total		46.4%	26.1%	13.0%	85.5%
	Other	Count		2			2
		% within Home Ownership		100.0%			100.0%
		% within Tenure		5.7%			2.9%
		% of Total		2.9%			2.9%
Total		Count	1	35	18	15	69
		% within Home Ownership	1.4%	50.7%	26.1%	21.7%	100.0%
		% within Tenure	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	1.4%	50.7%	26.1%	21.7%	100.0%

**Table 10. Cross-Tabulation of Home Ownership and Tenure**

Focusing on the renters, approximately 92% said that they would like to own their own home in the future (see Table 11 and Figure 8).

Like To Own

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	56	91.8	91.8	91.8
	No	5	8.2	8.2	100.0
	Total	61	100.0	100.0	

Table 11. Renters Who Would Like to Own a Home

Providence Community Action Survey Report
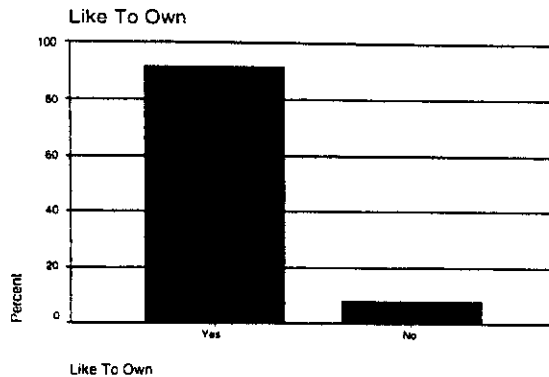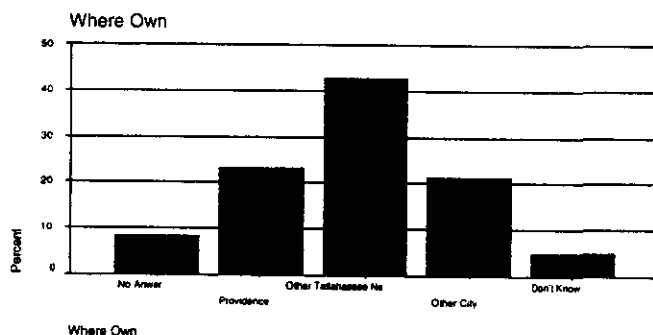
Like To Own

Figure 8. Renters Who Would like to Own a Home

Just over 60% of renter survey respondents said that they would like to own their own home somewhere *other* than Providence. Most (43%) said they would like to own their home in another Tallahassee neighborhood. Other neighborhoods in Tallahassee that were mentioned include: Killearn, Apalachee Ridge, 'near FAMU', and 'not Killearn'. In addition, about 20% of the survey respondents said that they would like to buy a home in another city entirely (see Table 12 and Figure 9).

Where Own

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No Anwer	5	8.2	8.2	8.2
	Providence	14	23.0	23.0	31.1
	Other Tallahassee Neighborhood	26	42.6	42.6	73.8
	Other City	13	21.3	21.3	95.1
	Don't Know	3	4.9	4.9	100.0
	Total	61	100.0	100.0	

Table 12. Neighborhoods In Which Renters Would Like to Own a Home

Where Own

Figure 9. Neighborhoods In Which Renters Would Like to Own a Home

Providence Community Action Survey Report

A little more than 50% of the survey respondents said that they would be interested in owning rental property in Providence. A strong minority said they wouldn't (36%) and about 15% were either 'not sure' or did not answer (see Table 13 and Figure 10).

Own Rental Property

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No Answer	3	4.4	4.4	4.4
	Yes	35	51.5	51.5	55.9
	No	25	36.8	36.8	92.6
	Not sure	5	7.4	7.4	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 13. Renters Interested in Owning Rental Property in Providence
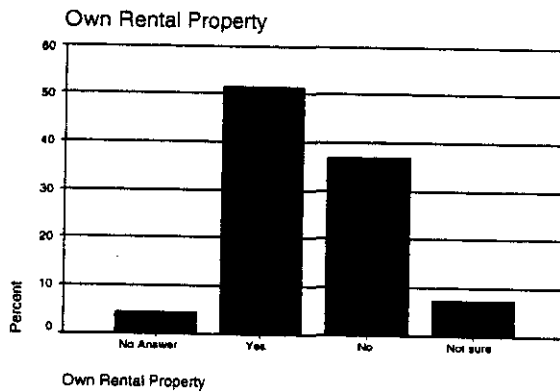
Figure 8. Renters Interested in Owning Rental Property in Providence

Community Concern

Statements that the majority of survey respondents agreed with:

- **Sidewalks.** 85% of the survey respondents agreed that their neighborhood was in need of sidewalks (see Table 14 and Figure 11).

Sidewalks

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No Answer	1	1.5	1.5	1.5
	Agree	58	85.3	85.3	86.8
	Disagree	8	11.8	11.8	98.5
	Don't Know	1	1.5	1.5	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 14. My Neighborhood is in Need of Sidewalks.

Providence Community Action Survey Report
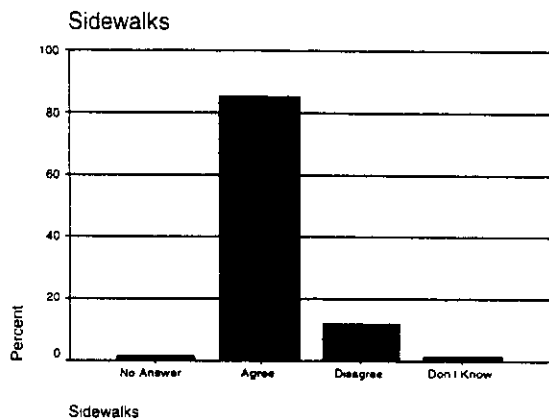
Sidewalks

Sidewalks

Figure 11. My Neighborhood is in Need of Sidewalks.

- *Streetlights.* 65% of the survey respondents agreed that their neighborhood was in need of streetlights (see Table 15 and Figure 12).

Street Lights

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	44	64.7	64.7	64.7
	Disagree	20	29.4	29.4	94.1
	Don't Know	4	5.9	5.9	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 15. My Neighborhood is in Need of Streetlights

Street Lights
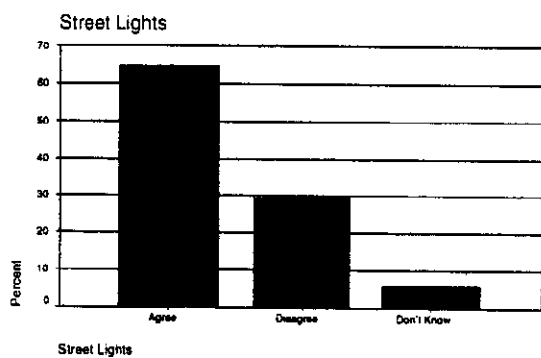
Street Lights

Figure 12. My Neighborhood is in Need of Streetlights

Providence Community Action Survey Report

- *Neighborhood Safety.* 67% of the survey respondents agreed that they feel safe in their neighborhood (see Table 16 and Figure 13).

I Feel Safe

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	46	67.6	67.6	67.6
	Disagree	20	29.4	29.4	97.1
	Don't Know	2	2.9	2.9	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 16. I Feel Safe in this Neighborhood
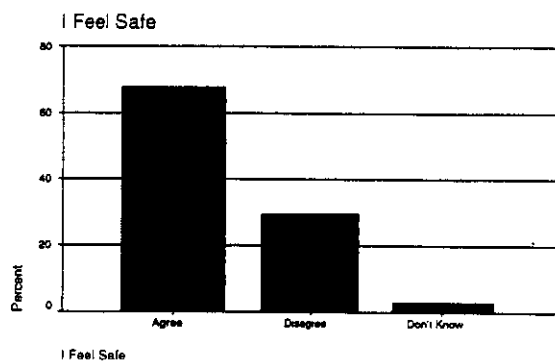
Figure 13. I Feel Safe in this Neighborhood

- *Neighbors are Friends.* 60% of the survey respondents agreed that their neighbors were their friends, however it is important to mention that a significant minority (31%) disagreed (see Table 17 and Figure 14).

Neighbors Are Friends

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	38	55.9	55.9	55.9
	Disagree	21	30.9	30.9	86.8
	Don't Know	9	13.2	13.2	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

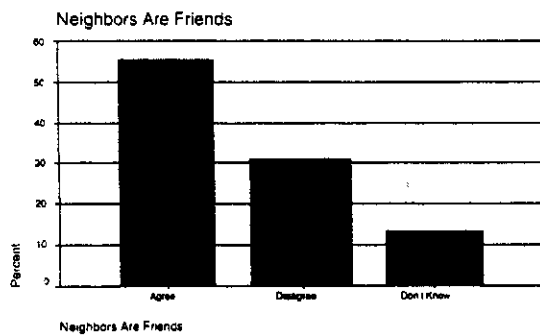**Table 17. My Neighbors Are My Friends**

Neighbors Are Friends

Figure 14. My Neighbors Are My Friends

* *Police Presence.* 60% of the respondents agree that the police monitor their neighborhood frequently (see Table 18 and Figure 15).

Police

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	41	60.3	60.3	60.3
	Disagree	22	32.4	32.4	92.6
	Don't Know	5	7.4	7.4	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 18. The Police Monitor My Neighborhood Frequently
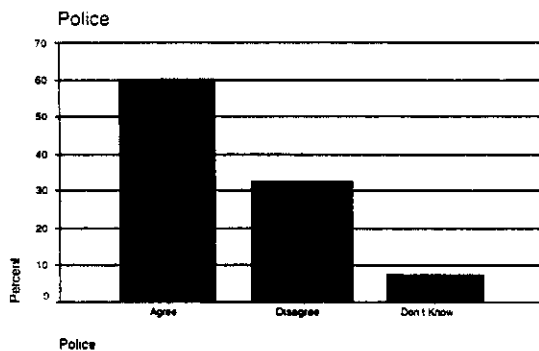
Police

Figure 15. The Police Monitor My Neighborhood Frequently

* *Good Bus Service.* 75% of the survey respondents agreed that there is good bus service in their neighborhood (see Table 19 and Figure 16).

Good Bus Service

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	51	75.0	75.0	75.0
	Disagree	6	8.8	8.8	83.8
	Don't Know	11	16.2	16.2	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 19. There is Good Bus Service in My Neighborhood

Providence Community Action Survey Report
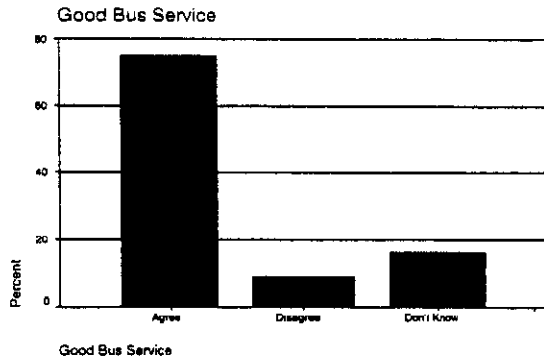
Good Bus Service

Good Bus Service

Figure 16. There is Good Bus Service in My Neighborhood

Statements that the majority of survey respondents disagreed with:

- *Activities for Children.* 88% of survey respondents disagreed with the statement that 'there are plenty of good things for children to do in this neighborhood' (see Table 20 and Figure 17).

Child Activity

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	4	5.9	5.9	5.9
	Disagree	60	88.2	88.2	94.1
	Don't Know	4	5.9	5.9	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 20. There Are Plenty of Good Things for Children to Do in this Neighborhood

Child Activity
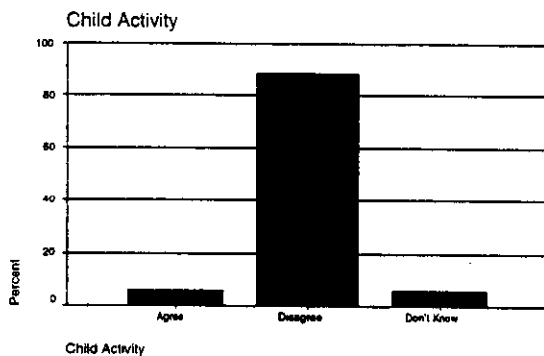
Child Activity

Figure 17. There Are Plenty of Good Things for Children to Do in this Neighborhood

- *Drug Activity.* A little over 75% of the survey respondents disagreed that their neighborhood is free from drugs. This finding corresponds with the respondents' stated top dislike of their neighborhood: crime/drugs (see Table 21 and Figure 18).

Free From Drugs

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No Answer	1	1.5	1.5	1.5
	Agree	6	8.8	8.8	10.3
	Disagree	52	76.5	76.5	86.8
	Don't Know	9	13.2	13.2	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 21. My Neighborhood is Free From Drugs
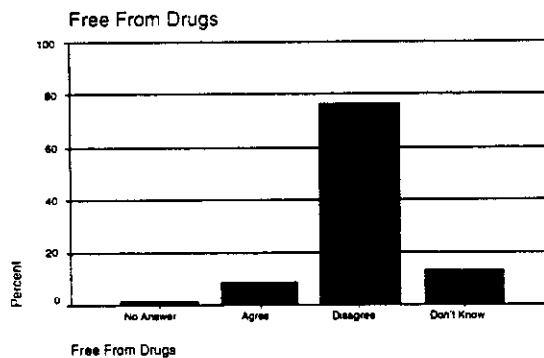
Figure 18. My Neighborhood is Free From Drugs

- *Attractiveness of Houses.* 70% of the survey respondents do not feel that the houses in their neighborhood are attractive (see Table 22 and Figure 19)

Attractive Houses

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	14	20.6	20.6	20.6
	Disagree	48	70.6	70.6	91.2
	Don't Know	6	8.8	8.8	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 22. The Houses in My Neighborhood Are Attractive

Providence Community Action Survey Report

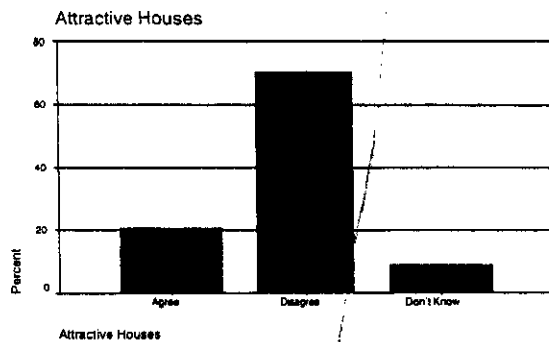Attractive Houses

Attractive Houses

Figure 19. The Houses in My Neighborhood Are Attractive

- *Cleanliness of Neighborhood.* 63% of the survey respondents disagree with the statement that their neighborhood is kept clean and free of waste (see Table 23 and Figure 20)

Clean

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	22	32.4	32.4	32.4
	Disagree	43	63.2	63.2	95.6
	Don't Know	3	4.4	4.4	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 23. My Neighborhood is Kept Clean and Free From Waste
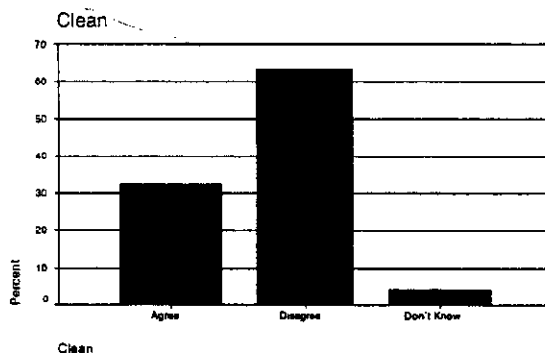
Clean

Clean

Figure 20. My Neighborhood is Kept Clean and Free From Waste

Providence Community Action Survey Report

Statements in which there was no consensus amongst the survey respondents:

- *Occurrence of Crime.* There was no consensus regarding the occurrence of crime: The responses were divided fairly evenly in thirds (see Table 24 and Figure 21).

Crime Occurs Often

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	23	33.8	33.8	33.8
	Disagree	23	33.8	33.8	67.6
	Don't Know	22	32.4	32.4	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 24. Crime Occurs Often in My Neighborhood
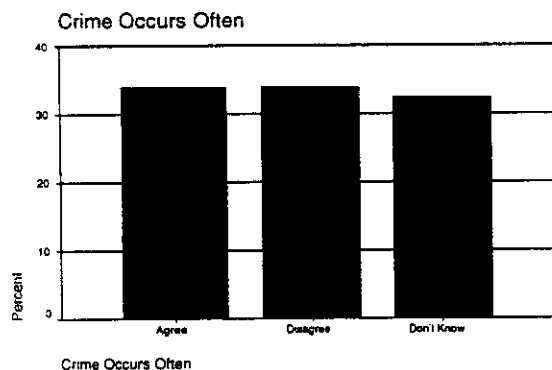
Figure 21. Crime Occurs Often in My Neighborhood

- *Child Safety.* There was no consensus regarding whether the survey respondents felt that neighborhood children can play safely outside. Almost half agreed and almost half disagreed. The more interesting point concerning this issue about safety is that two thirds of the respondents (age 18 or over) agreed that they felt safe in their neighborhood, while only one half on the respondents felt that children are safe in their neighborhood (see Table 25 and Figure 22).

Safe Children

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	30	44.1	44.1	44.1
	Disagree	33	48.5	48.5	92.6
	Don't Know	5	7.4	7.4	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 25. Children Can Play Safely In This Neighborhood
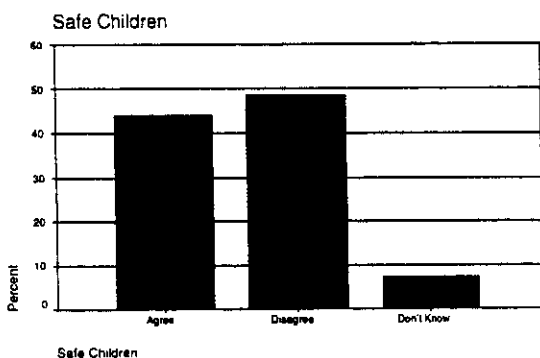
Providence Community Action Survey Report

Figure 22. Children Can Play Safely In This Neighborhood

- *People Care.* There was not a lot of consensus regarding whether people care about their neighborhood. Almost half of the survey respondents agreed, but one third of the respondents disagreed (see Table 26 and Figure 23).

People Care

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	19	27.9	27.9	27.9
	Disagree	32	47.1	47.1	75.0
	Don't Know	17	25.0	25.0	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 26. People Care About This Neighborhood
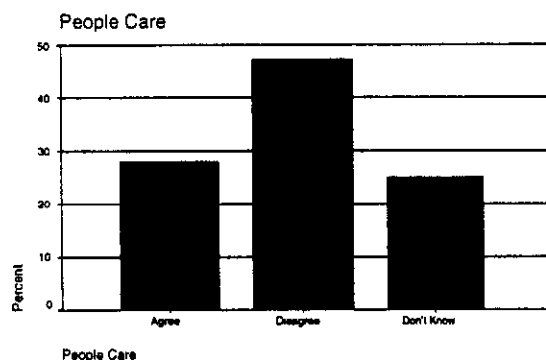
Figure 23. People Care About This Neighborhood

- *Abandoned Homes.* There was no consensus regarding whether there is a problem with abandoned houses in the neighborhood. The responses were divided fairly evenly in thirds (see Table 27 and Figure 24).

Abandoned Homes

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	26	38.2	38.2	38.2
	Disagree	23	33.8	33.8	72.1
	Don't Know	19	27.9	27.9	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 27. There is a Problem With Abandoned Houses in the Neighborhood
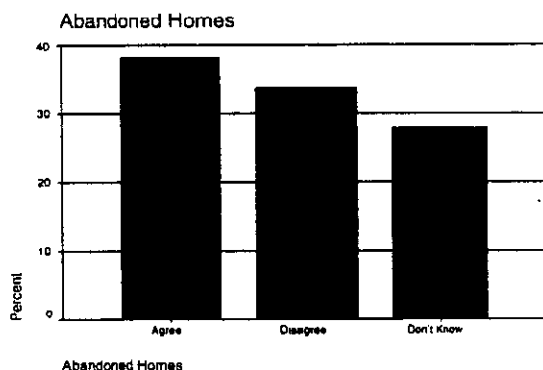

Abandoned Homes

Figure 24. There is a Problem With Abandoned Houses in the Neighborhood

- *Good Schools.* Half of the survey respondents stated that they did not know whether the schools in their neighborhood are good. However, the other 41% believed that the neighborhood schools are, in fact, good (see Table 28 and Figure 25).

Good Schools

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	28	41.2	41.2	41.2
	Disagree	5	7.4	7.4	48.5
	Don't Know	35	51.5	51.5	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 83. Schools are Good in this Neighborhood

Providence Community Action Survey Report
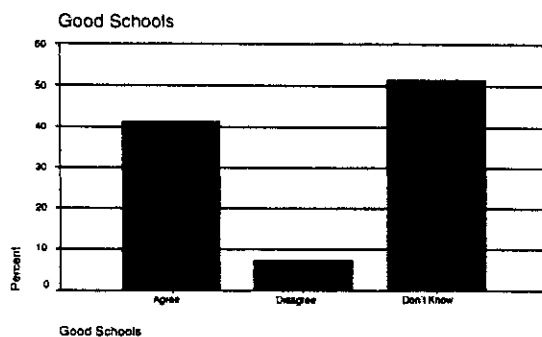
Good Schools

Good Schools

Figure 25. Schools are Good in this Neighborhood

- *Good Landlords.* There was no consensus regarding whether landlords take good care of their properties. 41.2% of the survey respondents agreed, 42.6% of the survey respondents disagreed. And 16.2% did not know (see Table 29 and Figure 26).

Good Landlords

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	28	41.2	41.2	41.2
	Disagree	29	42.6	42.6	83.8
	Don't Know	11	16.2	16.2	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 29. Landlords in this Neighborhood Take Good Care of their Properties

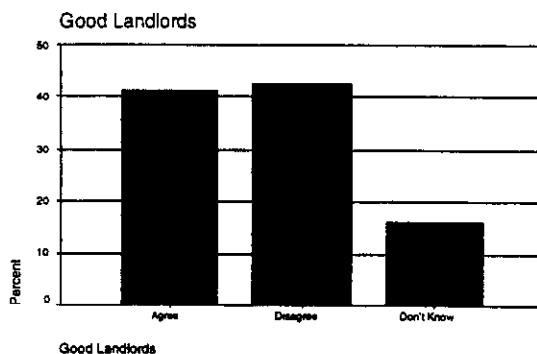Good Landlords

Good Landlords

Figure 26. Landlords in this Neighborhood Take Good Care of their Properties

Services Section

The purpose of this section of the survey was to identify the types of services that survey respondents would like to see in their neighborhood. The survey respondents were asked to look at a list of eight services and to rank their top three choices.

Of all of the service choices, 'Childcare' was the least likely to be ranked within the top three services, being chosen only 17.7% of the time. 'Recreation Center' was determined as the most important needed service, being chosen 69.1% of the time (see Table 30 and Figure 27).

Service	TOTAL
Rec Center	69.1%
Afterschool	44.1%
Job training	41.2%
Healthcare	32.4%
Drug/alcohol	28%
Parenting	28%
Tutoring	26.6%
Childcare	17.7%

Table 30. Most Needed Services

Most Needed Services
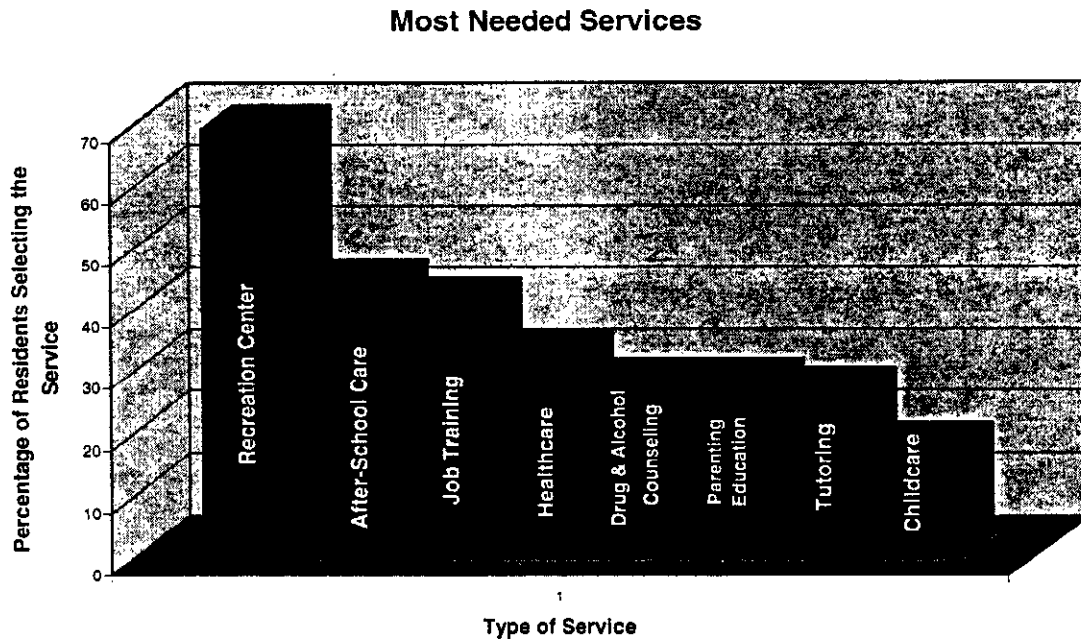
Figure 27. Most Needed Services

Land-Use Planning and Community Participation Section

Land-Use Planning

- 92% of the survey respondents said they would like to see more parks (see Table 31 and Figure 28).

Parks

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No Answer	1	1.5	1.5	1.5
	More	63	92.6	92.6	94.1
	Less	1	1.5	1.5	95.6
	Same	1	1.5	1.5	97.1
	Not sure	2	2.9	2.9	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 31. Parks: Would you like to see more, less, or the same in your neighborhood?
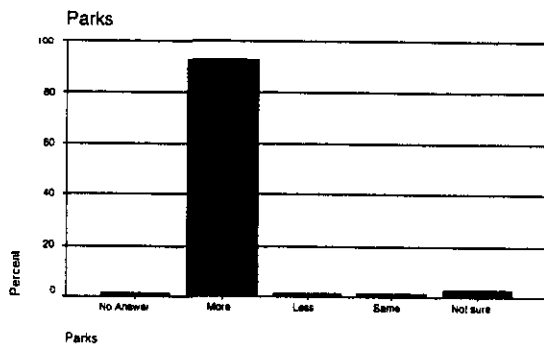

Figure 28. Parks: Would you like to see more, less, or the same in your neighborhood?

- 75% of the survey respondents said they would like to see more single-family homes (see Table 32 and Figure 29).

Single Family Homes

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No Answer	1	1.5	1.5	1.5
	More	51	75.0	75.0	76.5
	Less	6	8.8	8.8	85.3
	Same	5	7.4	7.4	92.6
	Not sure	5	7.4	7.4	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 32. Single Family Homes: Would you like to see more, less, or the same in your neighborhood?

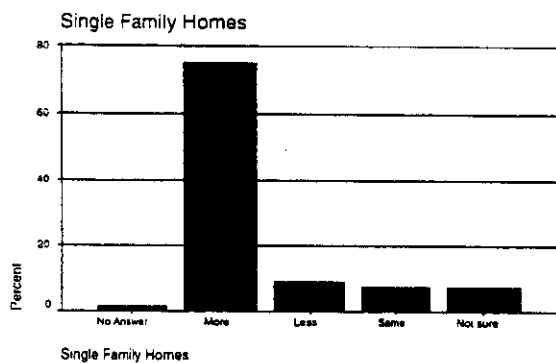Single Family Homes

Single Family Homes

Figure 29. Single Family Homes: Would you like to see more, less, or the same in your neighborhood?

- 61% of the survey respondents said they would like to see more businesses (see Table 33 and Figure 30).

Business

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No Answer	1	1.5	1.5	1.5
	More	42	61.8	61.8	63.2
	Less	8	11.8	11.8	75.0
	Same	14	20.6	20.6	95.6
	Not sure	3	4.4	4.4	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 33. Businesses: Would you like to see more, less, or the same in your neighborhood?
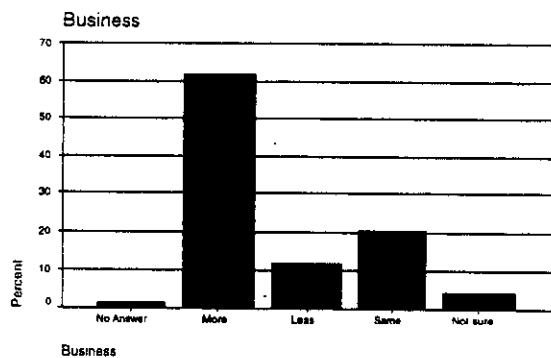
Business

Business

Figure 30. Businesses: Would you like to see more, less, or the same in your neighborhood?

- 40% of survey respondents said they wanted fewer apartments, BUT a strong minority (28%) said that they would like to keep the number of apartments the same (see Table 34 and Figure 31).

Providence Community Action Survey Report

Apartments

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No Answer	1	1.5	1.5	1.5
	More	17	25.0	25.0	26.5
	Less	27	39.7	39.7	66.2
	Same	19	27.9	27.9	94.1
	Not sure	4	5.9	5.9	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 34. Apartments: Would you like to see more, less, or the same in your neighborhood?
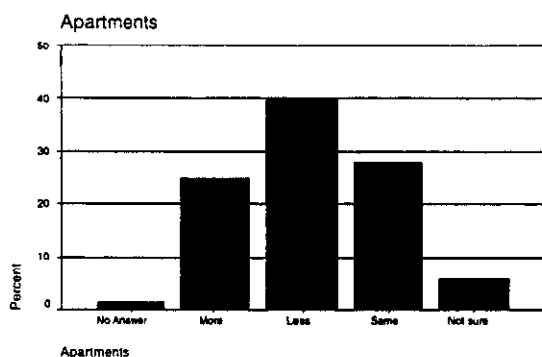

Figure 31. Apartments: Would you like to see more, less, or the same in your neighborhood?

- 38% of survey respondents said they wanted more industry, BUT a strong minority (34%) said that they would like to see less industry in their neighborhood (see Table 35 and Figure 32).

Industry

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No Answer	1	1.5	1.5	1.5
	More	26	38.2	38.2	39.7
	Less	23	33.8	33.8	73.5
	Same	11	16.2	16.2	89.7
	Not sure	7	10.3	10.3	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 35. Industry: Would you like to see more, less, or the same in your neighborhood?
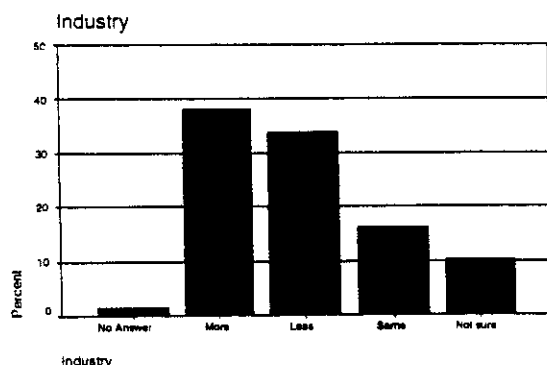
Industry

Figure 32. Industry: Would you like to see more, less, or the same in your neighborhood?

Community Participation

The survey respondents were also asked to list the names of any clubs, groups, committees, organizations, or churches in which they are actively involved. See Table 36 for examples of organizations in which the survey respondents are active.

Associations	Churches
Air Force Association	Cherish Community Church
American Home Building Association	Church of Christ
Boys and Girls Club	Christian Heritage
Fathers in Crisis	Grace Mission
Florida Future Education of America	Morning Star Church
Golden Key National Honors Society	Providence Baptist Church
Mothers in Crisis	Saint City Bethel Baptist Church
National Education Association	Saint Eugene Catholic
National Society of Black Engineers	New Salem Baptist Church
Order of the Eastern Star	Watson Temple Church
Sistuhs	
Stop the Violence	
Student Alliance for Cultural Development	

Table 36. Community Participation

Providence Community Action Survey Report

Demographics Section

- The survey notes that 85% of the respondents are African-American (see Table 37 and Figure 33). There is a Hispanic enclave of migrant workers that live in the neighborhood part-time, which did not participate in this survey. They are not represented here because they were not living in the area at the time the survey was conducted.

Ethnicity

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	White	5	7.4	7.4	7.4
	Hispanic	1	1.5	1.5	8.8
	African-American	58	85.3	85.3	94.1
	American-Indian	1	1.5	1.5	95.6
	Other	3	4.4	4.4	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 37. Ethnicity of Residents
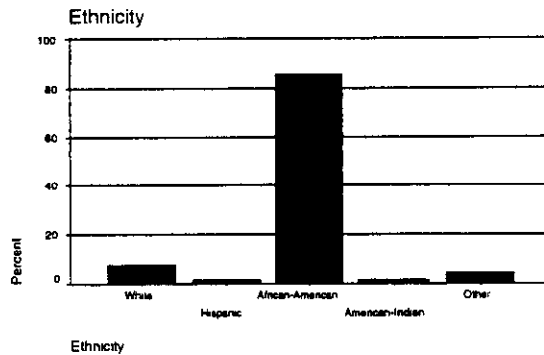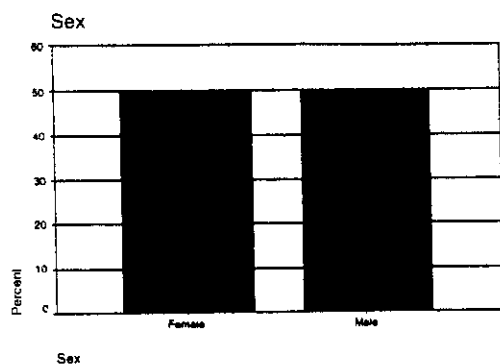

Figure 33. Ethnicity of Residents

- The residents are evenly split between men and women (see Table 38 and Figure 34).

Sex

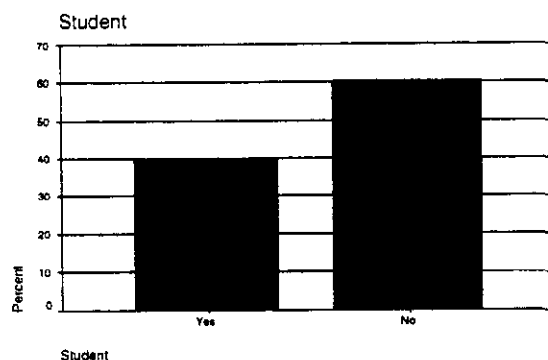|		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Female	34	50.0	50.0	50.0
	Male	34	50.0	50.0	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 38. Male vs. Female

Sex

Figure 34. Male vs. Female

Of the households represented, the largest age group by percentage was the 18 to 24 year olds (30%), followed by 30 to 54 year olds (23%), and the 0 to 5 year olds (21%). The households of most survey respondents consist of young adults who are either single or have small children.

- 40% are students (2000 Census noted 33% students) (see Table 39 and Figure 35).

Student

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	27	39.7	39.7	39.7
	No	41	60.3	60.3	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 39. Residents that are Students

Student

Figure 35. Residents that are Students

Providence Community Action Survey Report

- 74% are employed (TLPD noted a 20% unemployment rate) (see Table 40 and Figure 36).

Employment

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	50	73.5	73.5	73.5
	No	18	26.5	26.5	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 40. Resident Employment Rate

Figure 36. Resident Employment Rate

- 31% completed High school/GED and 37% have some college education (see Table 41 and Figure 37).

Educational Attainment

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No Answer	1	1.5	1.5	1.5
	Some Grade/High School	10	14.7	14.7	16.2
	GED/High School	21	30.9	30.9	47.1
	Some College	25	36.8	36.8	83.8
	B.A./B.S. Degree	8	11.8	11.8	95.6
	Graduate	3	4.4	4.4	100.0
	Total	68	100.0	100.0	

Table 41. Educational Attainment
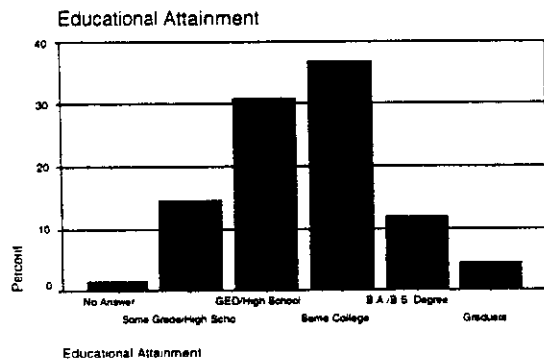
Providence Community Action Survey Report

Educational Attainment

Figure 37. Educational Attainment

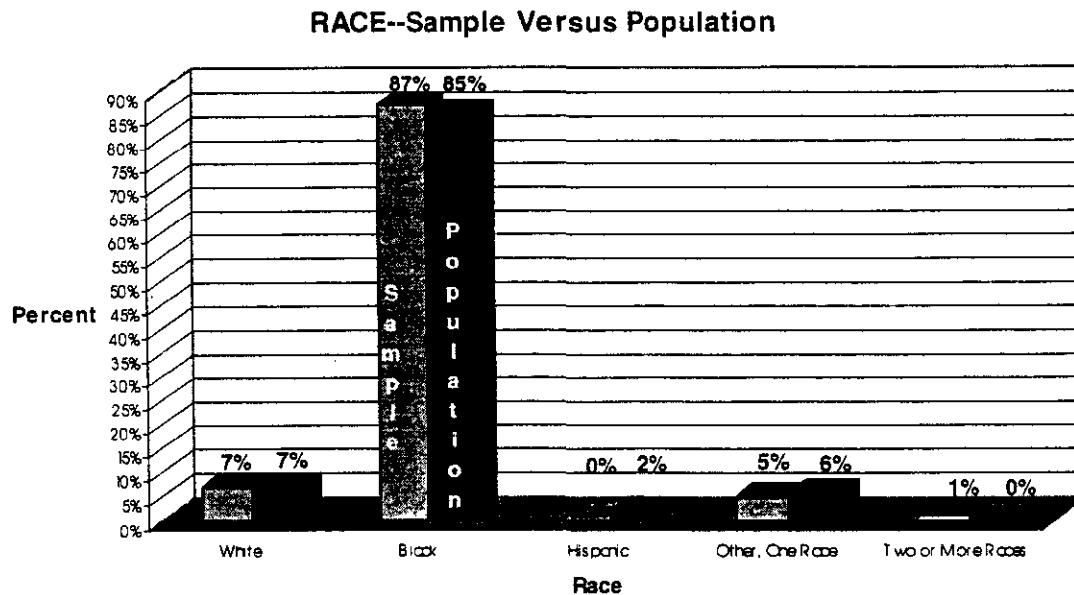### RACE--Sample Versus Population

Figure 38. Race

Providence Community Action Survey Report
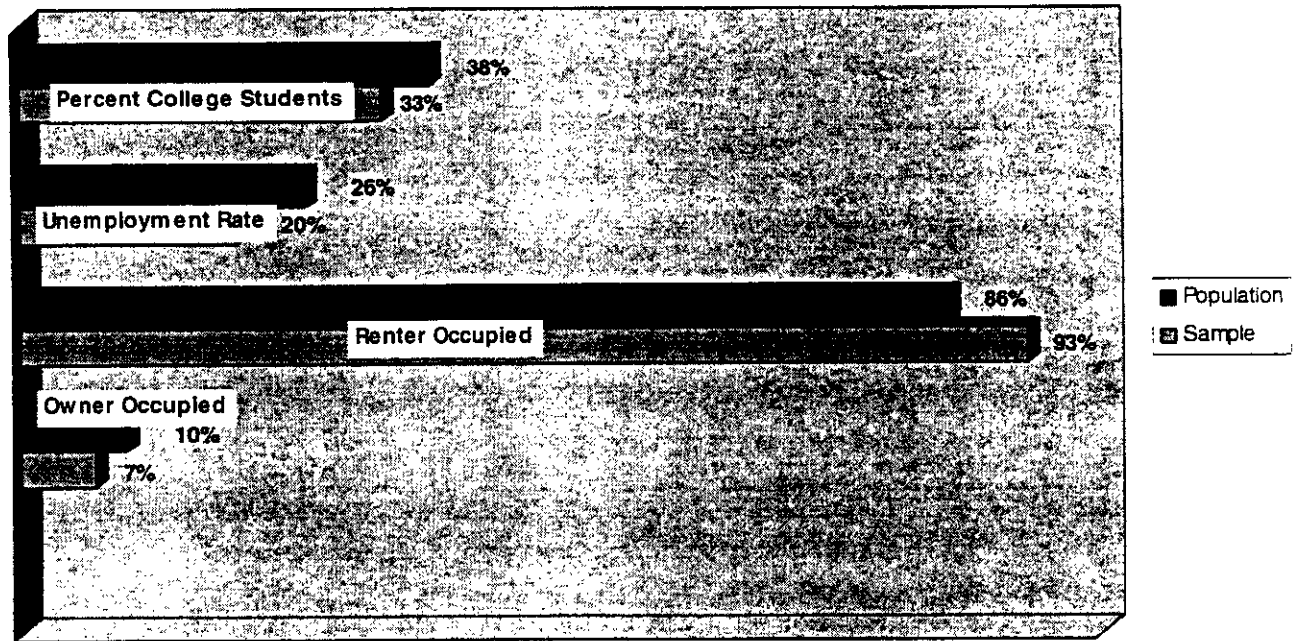
Sample Versus Population

Figure 39. Sample v. Population

IV. DATA ANALYSIS

General Perceptions

Neighborhood Name. One of the main reasons why many of the residents do not know their neighborhood name could be due to the fact that such a large percentage (51.5%) have lived in the less than one year (see Table 2). The property appraiser's office still lists the area as "Bloxham Heights". With only 5% of the residents participating in the neighborhood association, there is no wonder that only 6% refer to the area as Providence.

Length of Residence. The majority of the residents in Providence are renters (86%), see Figure 39. This may explain why there is such a large amount of resident turnover. The neighborhood has a fair amount of students, which could also attribute to the transient nature of the area. The amount of crime in the neighborhood may also explain the large amount of neighbor turnover. Based on the Community Neighborhood Renaissance Partnership Application submitted by the

Providence Neighborhood Association, a providence resident is far more likely to suffer a violent crime (burglary, assault or robbery) than the average Tallahassee resident.

Neighborhood Satisfaction. There could be a variety of reasons why the majority (63.2%) of residents is satisfied with Providence. The neighborhood has very inexpensive housing, good bus service, and a close proximity to schools (both universities and grade school). Question #2 regarding "length of resident" may also help explain the large percentage of satisfied residents. (see Table 4). Residents who have lived in the area less than one year would more likely indicate that they are satisfied given that there only other choice was unsatisfied. Residents could not choose "no basis" for this survey item.

Likes. Providence is close to many service-oriented businesses, schools, and it also has several bus stops in the area. This would explain why most of the residents chose location as the first thing they liked about the neighborhood (see Figure 4). Residents also mentioned 'people and community' as what they liked best about their neighborhood. This correlates to question #15 where 56% of the residents feel that their neighbors are their friends. This is ironic for a transient neighborhood.

Dislikes. Length of residence in the area may also explain why many of the residents had nothing that they dislike about their neighborhood or were unable to name three things they disliked (see Figure 5). Many of the respondents haven't lived in the neighborhood long enough to discover any dislikes. However of the dislikes that could be named "disruptive activity/loitering and crime/drugs were mentioned most. High crime and drug activity is a major concern based on information provided by the neighborhood association.

Housing Section

Housing Satisfaction. The large percentage of the respondents (over 80%) who indicated that they were "satisfied or very satisfied" with their housing could be explained by the inexpensive rents existing in the neighborhood (see Figure 6). Housing satisfaction may also be explained by the number of residents who have only lived in Providence for one year or less.

Owning versus Renting. Providence is a fairly old neighborhood. Most of the homes were built around the 1940s. As neighborhoods grow older homeowners move into newer homes and have a tendency to rent out the older home. This has apparently happened in Providence. Although there are a lot of apartment complexes in the neighborhood, many of the single family homes are also rented. Most of the homes in Providence are own by individuals who do not live in the neighborhood. This probably explains the large amount of renters in the area (see Figure 7). Forty percent of the residents who have lived in Providence longer than five years are homeowners, while 91% of the renters have lived in the area less than one year. (see Table 10).

Community Concern

The two community concerns that respondents overwhelmingly agreed with were that the neighborhood is definitely in need of sidewalks (85% agreed) and that good bus service is provided in the neighborhood (75% agreed), see Figure 11 & 15. Other responses about community concern did not have such an overwhelming consensus. These issues are briefly discussed below.

According to the survey, 65% of the residents agreed that their neighborhood was in need of streetlights (see Figure 12). One reason why respondents might feel this way could be related to the fact that the respondents' stated top 'dislike' of their neighborhood is crime/drugs. Perhaps they feel that if there were more streetlights, there would be less crime and drug activity in the neighborhood. However, 67% of the survey respondents agreed that they felt safe in their neighborhood (see Figure 13). Furthermore, this feeling of safety may be related to the fact that 60% of the respondents agreed that the police monitor their neighborhood frequently (see Figure 15). Thus, the perceived need of streetlights may be purely for aesthetic reasons. On the other hand, some residents feel that the frequent police monitoring of their neighborhood is more of a nuisance than crime prevention.

An interesting contrast to this majority feeling of safety relates to another community concern, that of crime. The survey results showed no consensus regarding the occurrence of crime in the neighborhood. Thirty three percent of the respondents felt that crime occurs in the neighborhood, while 33% felt that crime was not an issue and 33% did not know (see Table 24).

There is definitely a disconnect between the results of these two issues: if the majority of the respondents feel safe in their neighborhood, why didn't the majority of the respondents also disagree with the statement that crime occurs often in their neighborhood? The answer to this question is beyond the scope of this report and should be looked into further.

Regarding whether their neighbors are their friends, 60% of the survey respondents felt that this was true (see Figure 14). However, a significant minority (31%) disagreed. This difference in opinion may be explained by the fact that 51.5% of the respondents have lived in Providence for less than one year and may not have had the opportunity to meet their neighbors, let alone befriend them (see Table 2).

A little over 75% of the survey respondents disagreed that their neighborhood is free from drugs (see Table 21). This finding corresponds with the respondents' stated top 'dislike" of their neighborhood: crime/drugs. Interestingly, while 77% of the residents disagree that Providence is free from drugs, only 33% agree that crime occurs often (see Table 24). Perhaps one reason for this is that the respondents may not consider drug-use a crime, while they do consider the selling of drugs a crime.

One area in which the respondents were more in agreement concerned how they felt about the appearance of their neighborhood. 70% of the respondents did not feel that the houses in their neighborhood are attractive (see Table 22). Furthermore, 60% of the respondents did not feel that their neighborhood is kept clean and free of waste (see Table 23).

Interestingly, there was no consensus regarding whether landlords take good care of their properties. 41.2% of the survey respondents agreed, 42.6% of the survey respondents disagreed, and 16.2% did not know (see Table 29). As 93% of the residents in Providence are renters, one would infer from their unhappiness about the appearance of their neighborhood that they would feel that landlords do not take care of their properties (see Figure 39). However, the results show no consensus to validate this inference. Perhaps many of the respondents do not know that a large percent of the homes in their neighborhood are rented, thus they did not want to fault landlords for the appearance of the homes. In addition, the respondents may be blaming this

Providence Community Action Survey Report

issue of waste on pedestrian and drive-through automobile litter, rather than directly to their neighborhood landlords.

There was no consensus regarding whether the survey respondents felt that neighborhood children can play safely outside. 44% of the respondents agreed with the statement, 48.5% disagreed, and 7.4% did not know (see Table 25). The more interesting point concerning this issue about safety is that two thirds of the respondents (age 18 or over) agreed that they felt safe in their neighborhood, while only one half of the respondents felt that children are safe in their neighborhood.

Other community concerns in which there was no consensus included whether there is a problem with abandoned houses in the neighborhood, whether people care about their neighborhood, and whether respondents felt that the schools in their neighborhood are good. In terms of abandoned houses, 38.2% agreed that there was a problem with abandoned houses in their neighborhood, while 33.8 disagreed and 27.9% did not know (see Table 26). One reason for this lack of consensus could be related to the transient nature of the neighborhood residents. A house that appears to be abandoned one week might have a family residing in it the next week. Thus, the state of abandoned homes in Providence fluctuates often.

When asked whether the respondents felt that people cared about their neighborhood, 27.9% agreed, 47.1% disagreed, and 25% did not know. A possible reason for this lack of consensus may be based on the fact that 51% of the residents have only lived in Providence for one year or less and are not very familiar with the neighborhood or other people's opinions about the neighborhood.

Finally, there was a lack of consensus regarding whether the respondents felt that the schools in their neighborhood are good (see Table 28). 41.2% agreed with the statement, 7.4% disagreed, and 51.5% did not know. This difference may be reflected in the fact that many of the respondents do not have children in school.

Providence Community Action Survey Report

Demographics

Providence is a relatively young neighborhood with the majority (51%) of residents between the ages of 18-24. This is explained by the area consisting of several student residents and having several children in the area. The large minority presence in the neighborhood is probably due to "white flight". As white residents move out into newer neighborhoods, black residents moved in to what was at the time better housing than they had before.

V. SUMMARY

First of all, the survey gives us a glimpse at whom the residents are who live in Providence. The majority of the residents, see Figure 38:

- Are African American (85.3%)
- Are in or have completed some college (36.8%)
- Have lived in the neighborhood for 5 years or less (78.0%)
- Are employed (73.5%)
- Are tenants (86.8%)

The survey has also shed some light on what residents think about the Providence neighborhood and the types of changes that they would like to see. On a positive note, the majority of residents:

1. Are satisfied with their neighborhood, in general (70.6%)
2. Like the location, quietness, privacy and community in the neighborhood (32.4%, 20.6%, 17.6%, respectively)

On a negative note, the majority of residents:

1. Do not know the name of their neighborhood (94.1%)
2. Think that their neighborhood is unattractive (70.6%)
3. Think that their neighborhood has too much drug activity (76.5%)
4. Think that their neighborhood lacks positive activities for children (88.2%)
5. Think that their neighborhood has too much disruptive activity and crime/drugs (14.7%, 14.7%, respectively)

The majority of residents would like to see:

Providence Community Action Survey Report

1. Sidewalks and streetlights (85.3%, 64.7%, respectively)
2. Activities for children (88.2%)
3. More parks, single family homes and businesses (92.6%, 75.0%, and 61.8%, respectively)

The survey gives us an idea of how involved residents are in the community at-large and within the neighborhood itself. Nearly half belong to organizations in the community, while very few belong to the Providence Neighborhood Association. The neighborhood association should consider how to go about increasing membership and interest of the residents. A possible angle could be to host contest in which residents could pick a name for the neighborhood and the association.

NEXT STEPS

With all this in mind, further study should be undertaken to look at the interest and feasibility of assisting current and future residents to become landlords in the neighborhood. It would also be helpful to look into the fact that there is a preference for more single-family homes in the neighborhood, but a lack of interest in purchasing such homes in the neighborhood's current condition.

On the services side, the neighborhood association should consider looking into the recommendations for providing activities for kids, including the recreation center and after-school activities. Other service areas that were mentioned as needed include job training and neighborhood healthcare. Additionally, working with the city on streetlights, sidewalks and general infrastructure improvements would also be warranted per resident response.